



# FRIENDS of the VINALHAVEN PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

Summer 2022

## From the Library Director

By Scott Candage

Summer is approaching quickly and the Vinalhaven Public Library is preparing for a busy season.

There are public programs, a series of library-directed book discussions, children's and literacy enrichment workshops, a new "look" for the children's and young adult areas, the return of the Read ME adult summer reading program to the library, new passes to the Farnsworth Art Museum in Rockland and the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay for our patrons, and further work on the library's first strategic plan.

With relaxed Covid-19 safety protocols at the moment and a renewed effort to provide "in-person" public programs, we hope this summer will prove to be educational and inspirational for the entire library community.

Of particular note, as we are scheduling programs for the summer and fall, we would appreciate any requests from community members about what they would like to see featured at the library.

We would also love to hear from anyone interested in presenting a program (topics are nearly endless). Drawing on the rich pool of local talent, knowledge, and willingness to share is a goal for the library as we continue to work towards greater community engagement. Here's to a healthy, exciting, and rewarding summer on the island.

See you at the library, or [VinalhavenPublicLibrary.org](http://VinalhavenPublicLibrary.org).



Grant books at the school library.

## Hundreds of Titles

Each year the Friends budget for a grant to the Vinalhaven School Library. The items purchased using this year's \$2,000 grant were enthusiastically welcomed by School Librarian Taylor Leach and the students.

Taylor said, "This donation is helping put some key series in our library that our kids have been clamoring for, along with others that I am hoping will get our students reading! I was able to place an order of well over 100 books ranging from completing series, picking up duplicates of some graphic novels that have been in high demand, some hunting and boat repair guides, and so much more!

"Within a day of books arriving I already had kids reaching out about books from series they had been waiting for, so some of the books have already been rapidly processed into the system and are already in the hands of students across the island."

Find the Library on Facebook:  
[facebook.com/VinalhavenPublicLibrary](https://facebook.com/VinalhavenPublicLibrary)

Check the Friends website for days and hours at Second Hand Prose -- [FriendsOfVHLibrary.org](http://FriendsOfVHLibrary.org)

---

### Take a Field Trip!



The library has free passes to the Farnsworth Art Museum in Rockland and Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay. Plan your summer outing now! See Scott or Linda for details.

Photo: Kevin Dooley/Wikimedia

---

## Conversation with a Reader:

### Taylor Leach, School Librarian

By Susan Dempster

Taylor Leach started working as our school librarian last fall and has loved living on Vinalhaven and being our librarian! Her background is in early childhood education, and she loves working with the “littles” but has discovered an appreciation and enjoyment of working with middle and high school students too. I can relate to that, having worked with all ages when I was the school librarian.

Taylor was born and raised in Sycamore, Illinois, about an hour outside of Chicago. After graduating, Taylor moved around a bit, and then one summer came to the coast of Maine where she has extended family. She worked as a nanny and then worked as a guide on a lobster boat tour out of Rockport. She loved being on the water and discovered she loved Maine and made the decision to settle here.

We sat down in the school library to talk about books. I noticed how much the library has changed since I sat at the desk. Libraries have changed a great deal to meet the needs of an ever-changing society and Taylor is doing a great job of meeting those needs. I started with my usual first question: What do you remember about being read to as a child?

Taylor’s mother was a “voracious reader” and read everything. On Friday mornings she would take Taylor to the local bagel shop and then they would go to the public library. She remembers her mom reading lots of different series to her: the Harry Potter series (she has a tattoo because of Harry!), *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, *The Bailey School Kids*. She had lots of exposure to books at a young age. Her favorite picture book was *Go, Dog, Go!* She still enjoys reading series for children and one of her favorites right now is the *Nevermoor* series by Jessica Townsend.

I noticed that she has added many new books to the library, and she told me that she is grateful to the Friends of the Library for their support. Also, when there were funds left over from the granite bench made in memory of Amy Wadsworth and Angelina Turner, the family donated that money to the library for new books. Taylor has bought about 100 books with this money, and each has a special memorial bookplate. The library also received money from the Widow’s Island Fund for a Stephen King book club (for older students). They read some of his books and then took a trip to Bangor to see where King lives.

Taylor describes herself as an eclectic reader. She does read for escapism, though, and especially enjoys fantasy



Taylor Leach

series such as *Nevermoor*, *OwlCrate* selections, and *Sorcery of Thorns*. Two of her favorite authors are Liz Braswell (*Twisted Tales*) and Mary Shelley (the classic *Frankenstein*). *Frankenstein* and *Great Expectations* are two of her favorite classics, which she read in school and loved. Taylor also reads many nonfiction and history books.

Besides fantasy, Taylor says that she is a “sucker for a good dystopian novel” like *Lord of the Flies* or *FantasticLand*. She does not really enjoy romance books and leaves the thriller and horror genre for daytime reading, as some of the books have proven to be very scary.

She met two award-winning authors through the Island Readers and Writers program at our school. IRW brings authors and illustrators to Maine island schools; our students have been so fortunate to be part of this program. This year Taylor met Caldecott Award winner Sophie Blackall and Lauren Wolk (Newbery Honor, Scott O’Dell Award). For librarians and students these are big deals!

Taylor says she is happy reading ebooks and print books, and listens to audiobooks as well. In the past she has read up to 120 books in one year, but usually it’s closer to 45. However, this year she has been so busy that she feels good with reading one or two a month. She chooses books

to read based on recommendations and often rereads books that she enjoyed.

Presently, Taylor is reading *Blue Spaces: How & Why Water Can Make You Feel Better*, *Neuro Tribes: The Legacy of Autism and the Future of Neurodiversity*, *Carrie* (for book club), and her drop-everything-and-read book (DEAR, which is a staple for Vinalhaven School) is *The Four Winds*. Next on her list is one by local author Janaan Sherman titled *Walking on Air: The Aerial Adventures of Phoebe Omlie*. Taylor is sitting in the perfect place to find new books to read!



---

## How to be a Friend

There are lots of ways to get involved and help Friends of the Vinalhaven Public Library.

**JOIN:** If you receive this newsletter by mail, you're already a member. Thank you! (If you see \*\*\* on the label, it means it's time to renew.) For others, \$10 earns you membership, and entitles you to a vote for any meeting you attend. Of course, we welcome any other donations, which we use toward programs, enhancements to the library, school library grant, museum passes, and much more.

**COME TO MEETINGS:** We welcome all comers! Do you have some good ideas to share and want to help get them going? We want to hear from you. We meet monthly, on the third Thursday, generally March-November, and our meetings rarely go over an hour. We've been meeting via Zoom, so you can sit in and see what we're all about before becoming involved. Email [FriendsofVHLLibrary@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofVHLLibrary@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.

**HELP WITH PROGRAMS:** This can be anything from helping to set up for events to offering a program of your own. We want VPL to reflect the talents and interests of the community and would love your help with making this happen.

**HELP WITH OUR NEWSLETTER:** If you'd like to write about something pertinent to the library, we'd love to hear from you. We also welcome help with prepping the newsletter for mailing, usually in June and December.

**VOLUNTEER AT THE BOOKSTORE:** We're always looking for help at Second Hand Prose. We have regular shifts and lots of room for subs during the busy summertime. Other bookstore tasks include helping at the annual Fourth of July Book Sale, pricing and/or shelving books, or transporting rejected books to the recycling center.

-----  
Reach us at [FriendsofVHLLibrary@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofVHLLibrary@gmail.com) or visit [FriendsofVHLLibrary.org](http://FriendsofVHLLibrary.org) to send a message, make a donation or membership payment, or find out about library events.

## Officers and Committee Chairs

Chair: Colleen Conlan  
Vice Chair: Christine Yannielli  
Treasurer: Larry Brady  
Assistant Treasurer: Pam Wetherbee  
Recording Secretary: Marjorie Smith  
Corresponding Secretary: Wendy Koelbl  
Second Hand Prose: Colleen Conlan  
Newsletter Editor: Colleen Conlan  
Newsletter Design: Craig O'Donnell  
Programs: Scott Candage  
Membership: Pam Wetherbee

Ex Officio:  
Scott Candage, Librarian  
Linda Whittington, Assistant Librarian

**Friends of the Vinalhaven Public Library**

PO Box 223  
Vinalhaven ME 04863



*Color drawing by Heather White • Line drawing by Rhoda Boughton*

